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MAY 14.

Mr. THOS. MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Thirty-one persons present.

The death of Prof. Jos. Henry, a correspondent, was announced.

On Parasitic Worms in the Shad.—Prof. LEIDY stated that during the last month he had received letters and specimens, from New York, Trenton, Norfolk, and elsewhere, with information that the shad, this season, was much infested with worms. Two of the writers, physicians, had expressed apprehension in regard to the parasites, and supposed that they had traced several cases of illness to the use of shad which they suspected had been infested with the worms.

The worm has long been known in Europe as a parasite of the herring, mackerel, cod, salmon, and other food fishes. It is the *Filaria capsularia* of Rudolphi, or the *Agamonema capsularia* of Diesing. Prof. L. had described it in the Proceedings of this Academy in 1856, from the shad and herring, and had repeatedly observed it in the same fishes every year since. It usually infests the internal organs, and is often observed encapsulated in a close coil, upon the roes, the intestines, and the liver. It is from half an inch to an inch or more long. Most individuals have a few of the parasites, and sometimes they are exceedingly numerous. They appear not to affect the health of the fishes unless they are very numerous, when they impoverish their hosts. Prof. L. believed that they did not affect the wholesomeness of the fish as food, and perhaps when cooked with the fish were equally good and nutritious. Like others, he felt an antipathy to the worms, and he was in the habit of scraping them off from the roes of smoked herring before eating these. He took the opportunity of adding, what was already well known to naturalists, that most animals are infested with parasites, which were transmitted by feeding on one another. The remedy against transmission was heat. He who uses only well-cooked meats need have no apprehension of worms from such food.

Species of Euglypha, Trinema, Pamphagus, and Cyphoderia, with Synonyma and Descriptions of New Forms.—Prof. JOSEPH LEIDY placed on record the following synonyms and descriptions of new species of Rhizopods:—

1. *EUGLYPHA ALVEOLATA*, Dujardin, Carter, Wallich, Hertwig and Lesser, Leidy, Schulze.

Euglypha tuberculata, Dujardin.

Diffugia areolata, *D. acanthophora*, *D. lævigata*, *D. striolata*,